

## Consequences of Teen Pregnancy

- The younger the mother, the more likely the child will experience health complications due to inadequate prenatal care, low birth weight, poor nutrition, and other lifestyles.
- Children of teen mothers are at greater risk of poverty, lower intellectual and academic achievement, and social problems. Poverty is a risk factor for child abuse and violence.
- Teen fathers and mothers complete fewer years of schooling which limits their earning potential.
- Teen mothers smoke more than other mothers. Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of low birth weight, SIDS, and long-term disability.

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### Sources:

Washington State, Department Of Health,  
*Pregnancy and Induced  
Abortion Statistics*, 1980-1996

Washington State, Department Of Health,  
*PRAMS 1993-1994*, 1996

Washington State, Department Of Social and  
Health Services, *County Profiles Birth  
and Unintended Pregnancy  
Statistics*, 1998

*Contraceptive Technology*, 17th Revised  
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# Teen Pregnancy

## In Clark County



***“The starting point of effective  
child abuse prevention is  
pregnancy planning.”***

**C. Everett Koop,  
Surgeon General, 1986.**

*Teen and unintended pregnancy are risk factors that can lead to severe outcomes. These include less academic achievement, lower social and economic status, higher rates of domestic violence, and child abuse. Teen parents are more likely to smoke, have low birth weight babies, and late prenatal care. It is for these reasons we focus health efforts and the information here on teen pregnancy, and unintended pregnancies in Clark County.*

## Trends in Teen Pregnancy and Births

Pregnancies are the total number of births plus abortions. In 1996 there were 297 teen (aged 15-17) pregnancies in Clark County; 59% resulted in live births.

Rates allow comparison among different areas.

- Teen birth rates in Clark County have remained at a consistent level from 1994-1996.
- More of Clark County's teen mothers are choosing to give birth. Both teen pregnancy and abortion rates have dropped since 1980.

## Unintended Pregnancy

Unintended pregnancies are either unwanted or mistimed at the time of conception.

In Washington State in 1993-94:

- 55% of pregnancies were unintended.
- 40% of births were a result of unintended pregnancies.
- 85% of pregnancies in the 15-17 age groups were unintended.

## Cost of Teen Pregnancy

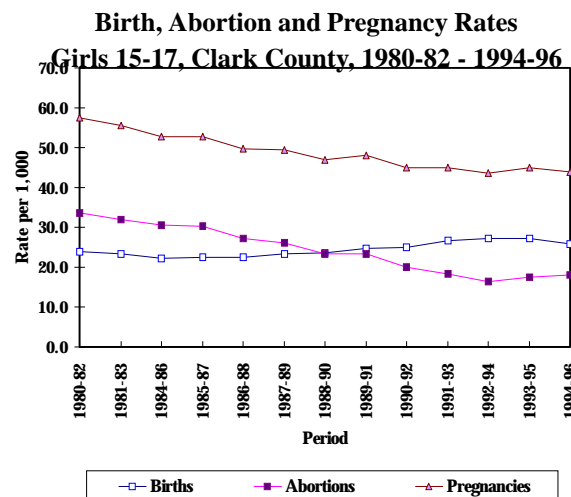
Births to teenagers are more likely to be publicly funded than births to older mothers.

- The average Medicaid maternity care cost in 1996 was \$5,304.

In 1996 Medicaid paid for:

- 54% of births to 15-17 year old mothers in Clark County compared to 28.7% of all births;
- 63% of births to 15-17 year olds in Washington State compared to 31.1% of all births.

## Teen Pregnancy Rates



### Comparable 1994-96 Rates (per 1,000 15-17 year old girls):

- Clark County: 47
- Washington State: 50
- Oregon State: 49

### Year 2000 Goals:

- Washington State: 45
- United States: 50

## Prevention Strategies

- Increase accessibility of comprehensive reproductive health services for teens.
- Increase youth education on teen pregnancy prevention.
- Increase parent training on communication with youth.

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